

# Brethren Evangelist

"I Am the Way, the Truth and the Life."—Jesus

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## Profession and Life

In the *Christian Advocate* of March 23rd, page 1, appears an editorial under the above heading which it seems to us is most timely and practical. We reprint portions of it with comments.

Christianity is judged by many persons by the conduct and character of its adherents. It may be unfair and unphilosophic to make the daily life of individuals the measure of the acceptance or rejection of any system of religion or morals, but that is what is done. One result is that, because of the inconsistencies of individual professors, the cause of CHRIST suffers.

The world gets its conception of Christianity, not from reading books on evidences nor yet from the study of the Bible, but by studying the lives of those who profess Christ. The unfortunate thing about it is that Christianity is judged not by the conduct and character of those whose lives are a reproduction of the divine Christ but by those whose character betrays their profession. There is a sense in which the world has a right to judge Christianity by the life and character of those who profess it, but only when such lives are governed by the fundamental teachings and principles of Christ. Paul says, "Ye are living epistles known and read of all men." Woe to those who give the lie to their profession. If there could be a greater degree of harmony between the profession and the daily life of Christian people, Christianity would meet with greater favor among those who are now inclined to criticize it. Here is an entire paragraph from the editorial which is lamentably true. The words deserve a place in the heart and memory of every follower of Christ.

It is a thing greatly to be regretted that there is practically no commercial value to Church membership. In the minds of many business men it is no special recommendation to a man that he belongs to the Church. It ought not to be so. But it is so, and largely because of the business delinquencies of members of the church who have lacked the courage to carry their religious convictions into their business, or have intentionally avoided the mixture of business and religion, or have used their religion and their connection with the Church as a cloak to deflect attention and suspicion from their dishonorable business acts. Each one of these classes is guilty of bringing the religion of Jesus Christ into disrepute, and heaping reproach upon the Church—the bride of Christ.

It is certainly not true that the Christian must adopt the false maxims of the world when he enters into the competitions of business life. It is possible for the Christian to conduct his business on strictly gospel principles and yet succeed. Christ is not unreasonable.

The principles on which he would have us carry on our business are a help and not a hinderance to true success. The requirements of the Lord are reasonable: "And now what doth the Lord require of thee but to do justly, love mercy and walk humbly before thy God."

The closing paragraph is so excellent that we give it entire. We can fully enter into the feelings, the thoughts and sentiments expressed in the following:

There are many persons in the Church who are earnestly hoping and ceaselessly praying for the coming of the millennium. They see what to them are unmistakable signs of its early approach, in the present unhappy conditions that prevail throughout the world. To them these wars and rumors of wars have a strange and prophetic significance, as have the mathematics of Scripture with which they constantly juggle to their own disappointment, sometimes to the enfeeblement of the faith of their neighbors, and generally to the ridicule and injury of the Church. Now, is it not more likely that the ardently looked for millennium will come when the Golden Rule is in universal operation; when men everywhere will love their fellows, and will manifest that affection by lives of practical righteousness; when every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus is the Lord alone; and when the sublime and fundamental principles laid down by the CHRIST and carried into effect throughout His matchless career, have an uninterrupted and undisputed sway in every department of the business world?

## It Will Be Published

Sufficient orders have been received to justify the publication of the proposed new tract on the ordinance of Feetwashing, to accompany the study of the Sunday School lesson, April 16. It is the purpose to make the tract a critical, explanatory and practical exposition of the scripture on which the ordinance is founded. All orders for the tract will be filled so as to reach our schools in time for use April 16, when the thirteenth of John will be the basis of study in our Sunday Schools. We shall be glad to receive large orders for the tract. Price per 100 copies, 50 cents; 50 copies, 25 cents; 25 copies, 15 cents.

A package of valuable bonds were found unharmed in the rubbish of the burned Windsor hotel. It looks almost like a miracle that they escaped the flames in that horrible furnace. But only good spiritual investments will escape a greater fire that is coming. New Jerusalem securities will be worth having some day. Take up a big block of College and Publishing House endowment bonds, and see what your paper will be worth a hundred years hence.